



**Department of Human
Settlements and Public Works**

KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

OFFICE OF THE MEC

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Date: 30 August 2010

The Programme Director, Cllr Naidoo

The Mayor of Ugu District Municipality, Cllr F.B Cele

The Mayor of Umdoni Municipality, Cllr Mrs N.H Gumede

Amakhosi present

Councillors present

Officials from local and provincial government

Residents of Ghandi Nagar

All others present and all protocol observed

In July together with Mayor Gumede, officials of Umdoni Municipality and the local leadership, we visited residents of Renishaw and Ocean View who have appealed to government for assistance, so that they can continue to live on land that they have occupied for generations. This land however does not belong to government and negotiations are underway to resolve the situation amicably. Too often when we gather we gather because there is a disaster or a crisis or of similar instances where the plight of our people are brought to the fore.

Today however is different. Today is a joyous occasion. There is no other sense of pride and achievement, than when a man/woman receives a title deed to his or her own home. This instills in a person, the feeling of belonging and patriotism. However this has been a long wait for the residents of Ghandi Nagar, some of whom have waited for about 16 years.

This new administration led by President Jacob Zuma and the African National Congress is committed to doing things differently. The president has said that we must be a government that serves the needs of our people - we must be service-oriented – and we must ensure that we deliver the services that our people need effectively, efficiently and speedily. The President has made it clear that we must not make empty promises. We must not just talk – we must act.

In this light, I am pleased to announce that the Umdoni Municipality has shown that we have indeed a caring government, which knows the needs of our people. Mr Johan Mtshennigisla Dlamini has lived in Amandawe, all his life. He is 68 years old and a disabled person. His house was partially damaged in the June 2008 floods but was habitable. This year however, during a storm the wall of his house collapsed. It was too risky to continue living in this collapsed house. To make matters worse he was attacked by thugs. Thereafter he was taken to a Place of Safety in Port Shepstone.

I must say that I would like to place on record my sincere appreciation and acknowledgement of the sterling work of Ward Councillor Zama who had visited Mr Dlamini and motivated his case to Council to rebuild his house as his dwelling was irreparable.

We have shown that a Government in action with the private sector can speed up the processes of service delivery. Liquid Platinum the consultants for flood disaster was able to obtain a sponsor in Mr Gonsalves to build the new house. Then RNP Agencies volunteered to build a dry pit toilet for a disabled person as a pilot project. Umdoni Municipality has shown that working together, we can do more.

Mr Dlamini is not the only disabled person in the province to have received a home in recent weeks. On August 15, less than a month after I and officials of Mandeni Municipality who had visited Mr Magwaza on Mandela Day (18 July), we handed over the keys to his new home to

him. When we visited Mr Magwaza, we found that he was blind and his home was in a terrible state of disrepair, with the roof that was blown apart and the walls were falling of in pieces. This was not acceptable. We followed our President's instruction to be a government that serves the people and that is with the people. We went back having heeded the President's call to provide speedy, service delivery.

This ANC-led government is a government of action. I can proudly tell you that people who had been affected by the heavy storms in other parts of the province for example Ndwedwe are now finally receiving their vouchers for building materials. They had been waiting for these vouchers for a very long time – too long a time in fact. However we worked with the Municipality and the handover of building materials vouchers began earlier on this year and is progressing very well.

Under the leadership of Premier, Dr Zweli Mkhize we have the Flagship programme called the war on poverty. In this programme all government departments work together visiting the poorest, most deprived households in our province to bring health, welfare and other services to them. We also try to bring food security to our people through the one home one garden campaign where we provide seeds to households and encourage them to grow their own food.

As the Department of Public Works we have broadened this programme to include food gardens at government buildings. As a result of this we were also able to give Mr Magwaza spinach that has been grown at one of the Department of Public Works' food gardens.

This now brings me back to the reason why we are here. Today is a very important day for the 51 beneficiaries who will finally be receiving their title deeds. With approved funding from the Department of Human Settlements, government housing stock has been transferred from the Municipality to beneficiaries in the Gandhi Nagar Township. This exercise of encouraging home ownership with beneficiaries receiving title deeds to their houses was made possible with the implementation of the Enhanced Extended Discount Benefit Scheme [EEDBS] .

In January 2007 Umdoni Municipality started implementing the EEDBS. Consultative meetings with the community were held to explain the benefits of the scheme. Beneficiaries were invited to interact with housing officers for any further clarity. This is public participation at its best where members of the public are afforded an opportunity to be part of the decision making processes that affect their lives. Further local attorneys from the Umzinto Attorneys Association are being used to undertake the transfers with the Deeds Office in Pietermaritzburg. This will expedite the process and will ensure that the local community is involved.

To report back, of the 674 houses in Gandhi Nagar, 430 beneficiaries have taken transfer. This translates to 63 percent of people becoming home owners. Currently 106 transfers are being processed by attorneys. Thus far some of the title deeds have already been handed over to beneficiaries.

Today is indeed a momentous occasion for the 51 beneficiaries will receive their title deeds. I am very happy to be here handing out the title deeds as this new administration led by President Zuma is an administration of action, of delivery, of less talk and more work. We believe that we must be judged by our actions and that we must work with our people. So today let us celebrate- let us celebrate government working with our people for our people.

Working together we can do more.

Thank you.